

Message Text

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FOR ATHERTON

FOL RPT USUN 592 ACTION SECSTATE INFO CAIRO DAMASCUS
TEL AVIV 17 FEB.

QUOTE

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, UN, XF
SUBJECT: SOVIET REPLY TO SECRETARY GENERAL'S LETTER ON MIDDLE
EAST PEACE CONFERENCE

REF: USUN 300 (NOTAL)

1. SECRETARIAT HAS GIVEN US COPY OF USSR REPLY TO WALDHEIM'S
LETTER OF JANUARY 27 CONCERNING THE NEED TO MAKE PROGRESS TOWARD
A MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT. USYG GUYER TOLD AMBASSADOR
BENNETT (PER BENNETT/TOUSSAINT TELCON) THAT SECRETARIAT
INTENDED TO CIRCULATE SOVIET REPLY TOMORROW, FEBRUARY 18, UNLESS
US PLANNED TO REPLY BY FEBRUARY 18. IN THAT CASE, UN WOULD
CIRCULATE BOTH LETTERS TOGETHER THE FOLLOWING DAY.

2. TEXT FOLLOWS OF FOREIGN MINISTER GROMYKO'S LETTER TO SECRETARY-
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GENERAL, DATED FEBRUARY 12:

QUOTE

DISTINGUISHED MR. SECRETARY-GENERAL,
YOUR MESSAGE TO THE CO-CHAIRMEN OF THE GENEVA PEACE CONFERENCE
ON THE MIDDLE EAST IN CONNECTION WITH THE RESULTS OF THE
DISCUSSION OF THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL HAS
BEEN CAREFULLY CONSIDERED. YOUR INITIATIVE IS DULY
APPRECIATED IN MOSCOW AND WE SHARE YOUR CONCERN AT THE
PERSISTING TENSION IN THE AREA OF MIDDLE EAST DANGEROUS FOR
CAUSE OF PEACE. IT IS CLEARLY EVIDENT THAT THE CONTINUING
OCCUPATION BY ISRAEL OF THE ARAB TERRITORIES, ITS DISREGARD
OF THE LEGITIMATE NATIONAL RIGHTS OF THE ARAB PEOPLE OF
PALESTINE REMAIN FRAUGHT WITH THREAT OF NEW MILITARY EXPLOSION,
THE CONSEQUENCES OF WHICH MAY SERIOUSLY AFFECT THE WHOLE INTERNA-
TIONAL
SITUATION. SUCH A COURSE WOULD CORRESPOND ONLY THE INTERESTS OF
THOSE WHO WOULD LIKE TO USE THE LACK OF SETTLEMENT OF THE
MIDDLE EAST CRISIS AND ABSENCE OF LASTING PEACE IN THE AREA
FOR THEIR NARROW PURPOSES.

THE FACT THAT ISRAEL AND THOSE WHO SUPPORT IT CONTINUE
STRIVING TO KEEP THE WHOLE PROBLEM OF THE MIDDLE EAST SE-
TTLEMENT DEADLOCKED CANNOT BUT CAUSE CONCERN. THE RESULTS
OF THE RECENT CONSIDERATION OF THIS QUESTION IN THE UN
SECURITY COUNCIL TESTIFY PRECISELY TO THIS EFFECT. THIS
ORGAN COULD NOT COME TO A DECISION BECAUSE OF THE POSITION
OF ONE OF THE PERMANENT MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL THOUGHT
THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF ITS MEMBERS DEFINITELY SPOKE
OUT IN FAVOUR OF THE CONCRETE MEASURES FOR BRINGING ABOUT
A COMPREHENSIVE POLITICAL SOLUTION OF THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM.

IN THE COURSE OF DISCUSSION OF THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST IN
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AS WELL AS IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL UN MEMBERS,
WITH A VERY SMALL EXCEPTION, CLEARLY EXPRESSED THEIR OPINION
THAT GENUINE PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST IS IMPOSSIBLE WITHOUT
WITHDRAWAL OF ISRAELI TROOPS FROM ALL THE ARAB TERRITORIES OCCUPIED
BY ISRAEL IN 1967, WITHOUT SAFEGUARDING INALIENABLE NATIONAL
RIGHTS OF THE ARAB PEOPLE OF PALESTINE AND INSURING THE RIGHT
OF ALL STATES OF THE REGION TO INDEPENDENT EXISTENCE AND
DEVELOPMENT.

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THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SITUATION AROUND THE PROBLEM OF THE
MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT HAS CLEARLY DEMONSTRATED THAT THERE IS
NO OTHER RELIABLE WAY TO ACHIEVE AGREEMENTS ON ALL THE QUESTIONS
OF THE MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT BUT THE RESUMPTION OF THE
WORK OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE - THE INTERNATIONAL
FORUM SPECIALLY CREATED FOR THESE PURPOSES. SUCH A CONFERENCE
SHOULD NO DOUBT BE WELL PREPARED AND ALL THE PARTIES DIRECTLY
CONCERNED INCLUDING THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION

AS WELL AS THE USSR AND THE USA AS THE CO-CHAIRMEN OF THE CONFERENCE SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN ITS WORK.

THE GENEVA CONFERENCE WITHOUT THE PARTICIPATION OF THE PALESTINIANS WOULD BE NOT A FORUM OF BUSINESS-LIKE NEGOTIATIONS BUT A CAMOUFLAGE AIMED AT CREATING SEMBLANCE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. I BELIEVE YOU AGREE THAT SUCH A TURN OF EVENTS WOULD DO ONLY HARM SINCE THE LACK OF PROGRESS WOULD LEAD TO A FURTHER AGGRAVATION OF THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND AROUND IT.

THE SOVIET UNION CONSIDERS THAT THE GOVERNMENTS WHICH HAMPER THE CAUSE OF CONVENING THE GENEVA CONFERENCE, ASSUME UPON THEMSELVES THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CONSEQUENCES OF SUCH A POLICY.

THE UNITED NATIONS WITH ITS HIGH INTERNATIONAL PRESTIGE CAN AND SHOULD SAY ITS WEIGHTY WORD ON THE ISSUES OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A JUST AND LASTING PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. YOU MAY REST ASSURED, MR. SECRETARY-GENERAL, THAT THE SOVIET UNION, ON ITS PART, WILL AS BEFORE DO ALL IN ITS POWER FOR THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THIS GOAL. SUCH IS THE POSITION OF PRINCIPLE OF THE USSR AND IT WILL FIRMLY ADHERE TO IT.

A. GROMYKO
MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE USSR

12 FEBRUARY 1976
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